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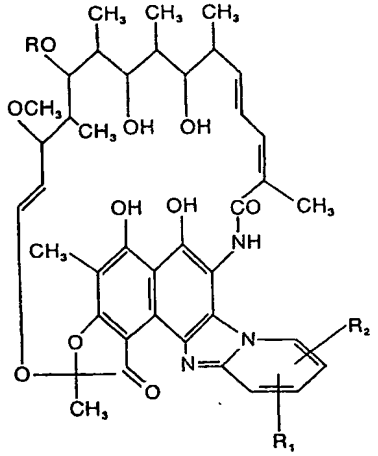
(54) New process for the synthesis of pyrido-imidazo-refamycins.

(57) A new process for the synthesis of pyrido-imidazo-rifamycins of formula



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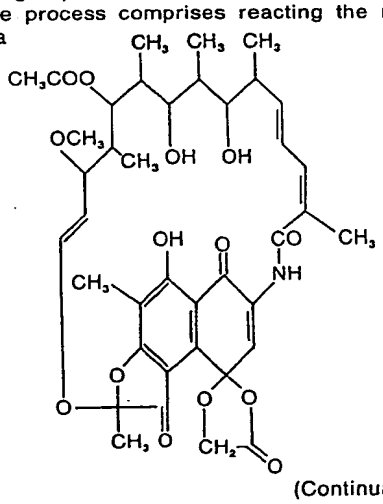
wherein R is hydrogen or acetyl, R_1 and R_2 independently represent hydrogen, (C_{1-4})-alkyl, benzyloxy, mono- or di-(C_{1-3})-alkylamino-(C_{1-4})-alkyl, (C_{1-3})-alkoxy-(C_{1-4})-alkyl, hydroxymethyl, hydroxy-(C_{2-4})-alkyl, cyano, halogen, nitro, mercapto, (C_{1-4})-alkylthio, phenylthio, carbamoyl, mono- or di-(C_{1-4})-alkyl-carbamoyl, or R_1 and R_2 taken together with two consecutive carbon atoms of the pyridine nucleus form a benzene ring optionally substituted by one or two methyl or ethyl groups.

The process comprises reacting the rifamycin O of formula



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